

Harper will now have 4 years of uninterrupted government. Plans to create jobs without increasing taxes and paying down the national deficit are top priorities of this new majority.

The relationship of Canada and South Carolina has been strong for many years. This year marks the 50th annual Canadian-American Days Festival at Myrtle Beach, which celebrates the partnership between our citizens. We welcome Canadian vacationers. We are grateful that former South Carolina Speaker of the House, David Wilkins of Greenville, served as the United States Ambassador to Canada from 2005 to 2009. Canada is our leading trade partner, which I know firsthand and appreciate, with the Michelin Tire Corporation of Lexington producing earthmover tires for recovery of oil sands resources in Alberta.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observation of Teacher Appreciation Week, which commenced on May 2 and will end tomorrow. It's not only appropriate to recognize our hardworking and dedicated educators, it is necessary.

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to recognize all the teachers in my district. I have visited every school back home, and I feel fortunate to have the classrooms filled with passionate teachers who are committed to every student by addressing their needs and guaranteeing their academic success.

I would specifically like to recognize the 2011 Teacher of the Year recipients from the school districts in Anaheim and Santa Ana, California. Mr. Erick Rossman, Ms. Anne "Mac" Devine, Ms. Sylvia Immanuel, Ms. Michelle Majewski, Mr. John Lombardi, and Ms. Valencia Davis, thank you. Thank you for your passion and your outstanding success and work with our students.

DRILLING EQUALS AMERICAN JOBS

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of H.R. 1230.

As the Congressman from Mississippi's gulf coast, I have seen firsthand the damaging effect of the administration's decision to delay lease sales for offshore oil exploration. I also have worked offshore myself as a rigger, a roustabout, and a materials manager. I understand the positive economic impact offshore jobs have on the local and regional economies. By the administra-

tion's own admission, we have already seen 12,000 jobs lost with a direct salary impact of \$500 million. To prevent these jobs from permanently being sent to other countries, we need firm timelines for considering permits to provide certainty to investors and employers.

I not only support the passage of the Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act, but I urge the administration to undo their record of blocking and delaying energy production and to proceed with scheduled lease sales promptly. We must not continue to unnecessarily sideline a vibrant industry that is critical to our economic and national security.

BIG OIL

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. In my home county of Los Angeles, hardworking, middle class families are struggling every day to put gas in their cars so that they can get to work and take their children to school. But I did a double take recently when I saw that a gas station in my district had the highest price per gallon in the country—almost \$5 a gallon.

What is the Republican response? They just released their budget. It gives more tax breaks to Big Oil. They don't want to reward you for working hard. They want to reward ExxonMobil which made \$34 billion last year in pure profits, more money than any other company in the world.

You are stuck paying over \$4 a gallon for gas and the Republicans also want you to pay \$4 billion in tax breaks for Big Oil?

Stop the \$4 billion Republican giveaway. Let's make smart investments that will lower gas prices and put Americans back to work. It is time to say "no" to the GOP, the Grand Oil Party.

GAS PRICES

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. I rise today to express the frustration of the good people of Missouri's Fourth District with our Nation's gas prices. As I traveled around the Fourth District last week speaking at eight town hall meetings, the one comment I heard everywhere I went was that gas prices are crippling our families and our businesses.

One over-the-road trucker that I visited with from El Dorado Springs told me that just a couple of years ago he would bring \$1,000 in cash on the road with him for a week's worth of diesel, but now he has to come up with \$2,500 in cash before climbing in the cab. This is extremely hard for someone just trying to make ends meet, and carrying so much cash is dangerous, too.

Every extra dollar in gas prices means one less dollar for a family's

food, clothes, or spending time together at a ball game. For the average driver, the increased cost of gas since the President took office is nearly \$1,100 a year.

We must stop the government from standing between its citizens and reasonable gas prices. This country has been blessed with some of the most abundant resources on the face of the Earth, but this administration has stood in the way of exploring and utilizing them at every turn. It's time for the President to get out of the way and let us get to work developing our own sources of energy.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOVERY EFFORTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation for the good work on the part of local emergency responders, FEMA, the Division of Emergency Management, the American Red Cross, and the many other agencies that have been helping survivors in my congressional district recover from the devastating tornadoes that hit North Carolina on April 16.

I represent, Mr. Speaker, one of the hardest hit communities, Bertie County, where 12 people lost their lives, 50 were injured, and dozens are now homeless. I am grateful that President Barack Obama was very quick to announce that 19 counties were eligible for Federal disaster assistance, and the hard work toward recovery is now under way. More than 4,700 people in North Carolina have applied for State and Federal disaster assistance. We are a generous and resilient people, and I know we will recover.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the recovery efforts and in expressing deep sorrow for the victims and their families.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA ON ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THEIR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the State of Indiana, Governor of Indiana Mitch Daniels, and Indiana State Legislature's accomplishments this past session that just ended.

I believe it is important to reflect momentarily on the achievements made in Indiana to give promise and hope that the same can be done here in Washington. Something I'm particularly proud of is the fact that Governor Daniels and the legislature have passed the fourth straight gimmick-free balanced budget for the State of Indiana which will give Indiana a budget in the black 8 years running. We can do the same here in Congress.